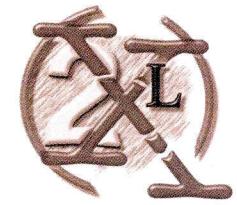


This project has been run by the 2XL parent group at St. Bedes School.

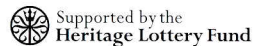
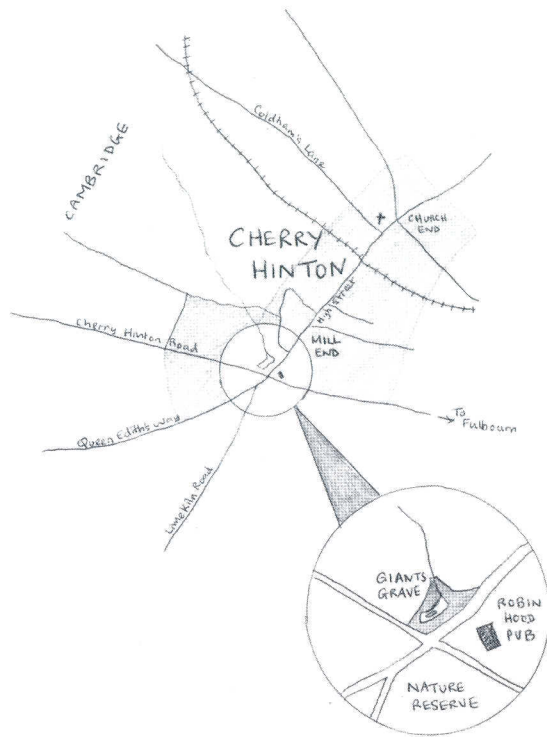


They gratefully acknowledge the assistance of:

- The staff and students at St. Bedes School.
- The Archaeological Field Unit, Cambridgeshire CC.
- The Local Heritage Initiative of the Heritage Lottery Fund
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- The Countryside Agency
- Active8 Archaeology
- Cherry Hinton Library
- The staff at the Cambridgeshire Collection, Cambridge Central Library
- Cambridge Records Office
- Mrs Heather Coppock, author of 'Over the Hills to Cherry Hinton'
- Greene King plc Property Dept.
- Cambridge City Council

GIANTS GRAVE

A Forgotten Corner of Cherry Hinton



The 2XL group of students at St Bede's School, Birdwood Road, Cherry Hinton, volunteer to undertake extracurricular

projects as well as their normal schoolwork. The 2XL parent group support this work and fundraise for extra resources for the school. The students are aged 11-15 years and choose different aspects of the project to work on. This leaflet, and the display board at the Giant's Grave site, have incorporated studies on history, geology, art, science, archaeology, computer skills, botany, graphic design and photography.

More information can be obtained from the full project report, held at Cherry Hinton library, and on the school website:

www.st-bedes.org.uk



Giants Grave



The island in the pool **3** is locally known as Giant's Grave, it is thought after the giant Gogmagog, which legend says lived nearby, but the name may also have come from some Iron Age burials which were unearthed locally on Lime Kiln Hill, where the skeletons were unusually tall (Cherry Hinton Chronicle, 1854)

This 'Giant's Grave' site is also locally known as 'The Spring' or 'Springhead' or 'Robin Hood dip'. It has been given to the local people as a public park since 1941. There used to be watercress growing in the spring.

The photograph above shows the remains of a footbridge **2** which disappeared about a century ago and became stepping stones.

The photograph below shows the adjacent crossroads in 1953, and the original public house, which was an extended thatched cottage. This was later demolished, and by 1960 the present building was reopened as the Robin Hood and Little John pub.



A Forgotten Corner of Cherry Hinton

An archaeological dig on the site **4** produced a wealth of domestic and building materials from the 19th and 20th centuries including some burnt material, possibly from the demolition of the public house across the road. The site was relandscaped, the road junction widened and the slope surrounding the spring raised and steepened in the 1960's.



Excavation in progress

Giant's Grave

Site plan showing points of interest



A botanical survey of the site revealed a number of common native plants such as Woody Nightshade, Honeysuckle, Rush, Speedwell and St John's Wort (right). Trees include willows and conifers. A number of cultivated species have been planted in the past such as Buddleia, Viburnum and a Ginko Biloba tree. In Spring, the site has carpets of daffodils, and cherry trees in blossom. The village sign next to the



A second archaeological trench was dug **1** and some of the finds are shown in the photographs. Perhaps the most interesting find is a piece of clunch which has been carved. This may be the first artefactual evidence of medieval stonemasons working in Cherry Hinton. Other materials for building some of the Cambridge colleges date from the 13th to 15th centuries. The other photographs show various pieces of bone, pottery, clay pipe stem and a Scott's Emulsion bottle.



Finds from the excavations including carved clunch block (top left) and a Scott's Emulsion bottle (top right)



Giant's Grave is the site of a spring which provided a major water supply for the growing population of Cambridge in the 19th Century. The surrounding land and water supply were bought by the Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company in 1853. The exit stream, **6** called Cherry Hinton Brook follows a route past Coldham's Common to join the Cam north west from the site. A water supply was important for the growth of Cherry Hinton, particularly as a cottage industry in the village was laundering for the colleges. In the following years the brook was diverted to feed the ornamental fish ponds built in the grounds of Cherry Hinton.

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Photo: Cambridge Collection

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A second archaeological trench was dug **1** and some of the finds are shown in the photographs. Perhaps the most interesting find is a piece of clunch which has been carved. This may be the first artefactual evidence of the medieval stonemasons working in Cherry Hinton on materials for building some of the Cambridge colleges in the 13th to 15th centuries. The other photographs show various pieces of bone, pottery, clay pipe stem and a Scott's Emulsion bottle.



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